

BIOACTIVE STENTS AND METHODS FOR USE THEREOF

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is based on the discovery that stents can be coated with biodegradable, bioactive polymers that promote endogenous healing processes at a site of stent implantation. The polymers biodegrade over time, releasing agents which establish or re-establish the natural healing process in an artery. Preferably, the stent is implanted at the time an artery is damaged, such as at the time of angioplasty to protect the damaged artery against deleterious blood-borne factors that initiate proliferation of smooth muscle cells.